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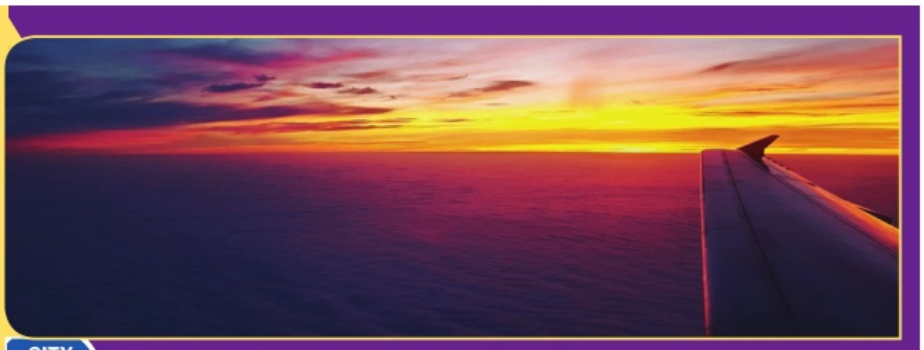
Bangalore Mirror

Merry Christmas

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 84% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 78,472 | Nifty 23,727 | Gold 77,350 | Silver 91,400 | Dollar 85.20 | Euro 88.75 | GBP 106.50



CITY PAGE 2

Frequent fliers Karnataka witnesses year-on-year domestic passenger growth of 16.06%, Bengaluru airport is third busiest in country

Ticket to ride City's key railway stations get thermal printers; system expected to improve ticketing efficiency and prevent fraud

CITY PAGE 9

Should Karnataka follow Centre's lead and abolish no-detention policy for grades five and eight? Educationists in state are divided — quality of education slipping say some, while others worry about drop-outs

THIS TOO SHALL PASS?

Expert talks of CAG report highlighting year-on-year decline in learning outcomes

Sridhar.Vivan
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The Centre's decision to abolish the no-detention policy for grades five and eight has sparked a debate within the State. The State Government now faces increasing pressure to decide whether to retain the no-detention policy or follow the Centre's lead in revoking it. Meanwhile, a coalition of school associations has submitted a letter urging the implementation of a 'pass-fail' system for grades five and eight starting this academic year.

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, said, "Karnataka must follow the Central Government's lead and enforce the 5th and 8th-grade non-promotion rules to stress on quality education. By prioritising learning outcomes, the state can address the declining educational standards and ensure a brighter future for its students." He said that the Central Government's implementation of the 2019 amendments to the Right to Education (RTE) Act, emphasising quality education for 5th and 8th grades, has been a commendable step toward improving learning standards.

On the other hand, Niranjanaradhya VP, National Convenor of People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting him to reject the Central Government's new rules mandating exams for Classes 5 and 8, as they contradict the principles of the RTE Act. "Instead, we urge you to reinforce the effective implementation of CCE in Karnataka, ensuring every child receives quality education

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Detaining students or declaring them as "failed" based on annual examinations is counterproductive. This approach disregards the child's learning environment, teacher support, and emotional well-being**
>
> — Niranjanaradhya VP, People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education

Troubled waters

More delay in setting up effluent treatment plant to decontaminate polluted Arkavathi River

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While Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir, drawing water from the Arkavathi and Cauvery rivers, is already supplying water to Bengaluru, there is no sign of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to decontaminate Arkavathi's water of industrial waste from Peenya Industrial area.

According to the officials from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the tender process for the much-needed ETP has now been delayed. KSPCB was to float the tender in September to establish the treatment plant.

"We prepared the tender document by estimating the cost of development of the project using the standard scheduled rates (SCR). However, SCR has been revised now and thus we are in the process of making these changes in the tender document. Tenders for the ETP will be floated soon after the documents are revised," said KSPCB member secretary HC Balachandra.

Since the tender for the project is of value above Rs 2 crore, it will require a bidding period of at least 30 days as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, 1999.

The Arkavathi River stretch near TG Halli has been showing signs of high pollution over the last few

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Science quiz

In celebration of Kannada Rajyotsava, the Tata Memorial Club, IISc is organising a science quiz for classes 11th and 12th. The event promises to be a fun-filled day of learning, exploration, and friendly competition. It's a wonderful opportunity for Class 11th and 12th students to showcase their knowledge and win attractive rewards. **Where: JN Tata Auditorium, IISc; When: December 28, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm**

02 NYE celebrations

With the New Year around the corner, Moxy Bengaluru Airport announces the Biggest Mardi Gras Carnival Party in Bengaluru, a celebration that promises an unforgettable blend of entertainment, vibrant carnival vibes, and premium experiences for all attendees. Electrifying performances by DJ Andrew, Anjan Issar (India's Got Talent, Season 4), and the dynamic duo DJ Nitesze and Lady DJ Vazify. **Where: Moxy Bengaluru Airport; When: December 31, 8 pm onwards**

03 Kathak performance

Sanjana Gupta, disciple of renowned Kathak dancer Simran Godhwani from Krshala Dance Theatre, will be presenting her Kathak Rangpravesha. Sanjana has been dedicated to the art of Kathak for the past 12 years. Since the age of 16, she has been learning under the guidance of Simran Godhwani. **Where: Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur; When: December 29, 4.30 pm**

04 Circus entertainment

A world of enchantment, festive wonder, jaw-dropping acts, and non-stop entertainment for the entire family at Olympian circus. **Where: Olympian Circus, JP Nagar; When: December 16 to January 5, 4 pm and 7 pm**

05 Mehfil E Sartaaj

Dr Satinder Sartaaj is a multi-talented artist who has left a significant impact on various artistic fields. As a singer, lyricist, composer, and actor, he has garnered international recognition for his exceptional talent and captivating performances. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts; When: January 16, 7 pm**

Former Minister questioned in ₹2-crore gold fraud case

Former Minister Varthur Prakash was questioned by the police in connection with a Rs 2-crore gold fraud case. The case, filed at the Commercial Street police station, involves a woman named Shwetha, who is accused of deceiving a gold merchant. She allegedly used Prakash's name to buy gold from the merchant. Prakash appeared before Pulikeshinagar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Geetha, who questioned him for about an hour.

A senior officer clarified that Prakash had returned the gold Shwetha had gifted him and said he was not involved in the scam. The officer said Shwetha had used Prakash's name in the transaction. Prakash told the media he had no connection to the accused. "She is not my friend; all allegations against me are false," he said. He said he met Shwetha five months ago, but was unaware of her actions till the police informed him. He said he had given all information during the questioning. **— BMB**

Say a little prayer

Devotees attend the prayers on Christmas eve at St. Basilica Church on Tuesday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

K'taka flies high: Third in India in domestic air travel

Bengaluru's airport is third busiest in country; state saw year-on-year domestic passenger growth of 16.06%

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The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has recently become the country's third busiest international and domestic airport after Mumbai and Delhi. However, interestingly, Karnataka (with all airports combined) is also the third state to have the highest number of domestic air travellers. As per the latest data presented in Rajya Sabha, Karnataka retained its third position in domestic passenger traffic during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24, highlighting its steady growth in air travel. However, in the international category, Karnataka ranked sixth both years. The state witnessed a year-on-year domestic passenger growth of 16.06%, increasing from 3,02,55,765 passengers in 2022-23 to 3,51,13,640 in 2023-24. International traffic rose by 11.38%, from 12,50,195 passengers to 13,92,683 during the same period.

In domestic air traffic, Delhi and Maharashtra outperformed Karnataka. Delhi recorded 5,41,07,308 passengers in 2023-24, 54.07% higher than Karnataka, while Maharashtra reported 5,24,76,118 passengers, 49.45% higher. Similarly, in international air traffic, Delhi led with 91,83,880 passengers, a staggering 559.66% more than Karnataka, followed by Maharashtra with 66,01,785 passengers, 374.23% higher. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana also ranked above Karnataka, with international traffic 253.91%, 87.86%, and 19.18% higher, respectively.

No government role in airfare

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Murlidhar Mohol, stated that the government has minimal involvement in controlling high airfares. Responding to a query in the Rajya Sabha, he noted that airfares in 2024 have moderated compared to 2023. There is no evidence of airlines engaging in artificial shortages or black marketing.

Mohol clarified that airfares are not regulated by the government, allowing airlines the flexibility to set prices based on operational needs in compliance with Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Airlines determine fares by considering market conditions, demand fluctuations, seasonal trends, and other market influences, ensuring prices reflect the current travel environment. While the government avoids regulating airfares to promote market competitiveness, it remains vigilant. It has intervened during exceptional circumstances like the pandemic to cap fares or reallocate capacity to curb excessive pricing and safeguard passenger interests.

> **"AERA oversees determination of tariffs for aeronautical services at major airports in India**
> – Murlidhar Mohol, Minister

"Additionally, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), an independent economic regulator, oversees the determination of tariffs for aeronautical services at major airports. AERA allows airport operators to recover revenue through landing and parking charges from airlines and User Development Fees (UDF) from passengers. Tariffs are determined based on factors such as return on investment, operational expenditure, depreciation, and taxes under the AERA Act and guidelines for a five-year control period. Despite significant capital expenditure to accommodate rising passenger traffic, Indian airports maintain substantially lower passenger charges compared to major international airports worldwide," he said.

Shankar Ehsaan Loy Live in Bengaluru

RED LIVE Concert by 93.5 RED FM

Bengaluru was swept off its feet during an unforgettable musical night led by the legendary Bollywood music trio. Shankar Ehsaan Loy took center stage at the New Horizon College of Engineering, Bellandur on 21st December, with their stellar vocals and infectious energy, at the concert organised by Superhits 93.5 RED FM under the banner of RED LIVE.

The event began by taking the stage amidst roaring applause, Shankar Mahadevan expressed his admiration for the city, calling Bengaluru "an amazing city" and marveling at its musically inclined audience. His heartfelt words resonated as he noted, "The Bengaluru public is so surila (melodious)."

The spotlight of the night was just not on Shankar Ehsaan Loy, but when Shankar's son, Shivam Mahadevan, joined him on stage. Together, the father-son duo delivered a magical performance kick starting with Dil Chahta Hai, a nostalgic melody that had the audience swaying to its timeless rhythm.

The concert was not just a performance—it was a musical tour. From Rajasthan to Kashmir, Shankar's soulful voice brought alive folk songs like Bumbro Bumbro, transitioning seamlessly to the heartland of Uttar Pradesh with vibrant tunes. The audience was transported across regions, immersing themselves in the diversity of Indian music.

Shankar evoked nostalgia by singing Sajdaa, a song that took fans back 14 years. During the performance, he also stated "next generation encouragement is claps".

In a special tribute to women, Shankar performed Pretty Woman, celebrating the power and grace of women in India. The crowd erupted into cheers, and the mood turned electric with his lively rendition of It's Time to Disco.

The evening also featured a series of unplugged performances, including soulful renditions of Noor-E-Khuda, Salaam-E-Ishq, and Khaabon Ke Parinday. The intimate setting of these songs had the audience snapping fingers and swaying along, particularly during Slow Motion Angreza with its catchy "wulu-mulu" lyrics.

A particularly touching moment was Shankar's tribute to mothers with the emotional Maa song from Taare Zameen Par. His heartfelt performance left many in the audience emotional, as they reflected on the selfless love of mothers.

A Celebration of Music and Connection

RED LIVE, the flagship entertainment platform of RED FM, has redefined live music by bringing celebrated artists closer to audiences. Known for organising grand concerts and unique musical festivals, RED LIVE once again bridged the gap between artists and audiences, creating unforgettable memories.

Mr. B Surendar, Director and COO, Red FM Network says, "Red 93.5 FM as a network and as a brand believes in providing super hits anytime a listener tunes in on air. This music promise from our side is equally relevant to all our on ground initiatives as well . Getting the biggest names in Bollywood music to perform live in key cities like Bangalore is a part of that key objective. Shankar Ehsaan Loy have played a dominant role in Bollywood Music for nearly 30 years now."

Speaking about the event, Mr.Suresh Ganesan, General Manager, RED FM, Karnataka, shared his excitement. "At RED 93.5 FM, we believe in delivering extraordinary experiences, and this concert is our way of creating unforgettable memories for our listeners in Bengaluru. RED LIVE is not just a platform; it's a celebration of music that connects artists and audiences in the most memorable way. Bringing Shankar Ehsaan Loy to Bengaluru under the RED LIVE banner is our way of delivering an unparalleled live music experience. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors & making this night truly magical," he said.

Audience Participation and Electrifying Atmosphere

The crowd became an integral part of the performance, with audiences snapping their fingers, swaying their arms, and the audience's excitement peaked when flashlights illuminated the venue during Mitwa, creating a sea of twinkling lights. Adding a local touch, Shankar performed the Kannada classic Neene Rama Neene Shama.

The concert concluded with a medley of high-energy tracks including Uff Teri Adaa, Kajra Re, Senorita, and finally, the foot-tapping Gallan Goodiyan. As the last note faded, the audience erupted in a standing ovation, marking the end of a night filled with rhythm, nostalgia, and pure musical magic.

Bengaluru, with its love for music, gave Shankar Mahadevan and his team a platform to create memories that will resonate for years to come.

> Red 93.5 FM as a network and as a brand believes in providing super hits anytime a listener tunes in on air. This music promise from our side is equally relevant to all our on ground initiatives as well
>
> **B Surendar,**
> **Director and COO, Red FM Network**

> At RED 93.5 FM, we believe in delivering extraordinary experiences, and this concert is our way of creating unforgettable memories for our listeners in Bengaluru. RED LIVE is not just a platform; it's a celebration of music that connects artists and audiences in the most memorable way
>
> **Suresh Ganesan,**
> **General Manager, Red FM**

A Night to Cherish

For the music lovers of Bengaluru, the concert was more than a performance—it was an emotional and cultural celebration. 93.5 RED FM's dedication to creating world-class live music experiences shone brightly, making the night truly unforgettable.

As the echoes of Shankar Ehsaan Loy's melodies lingered in the air, one thing became clear: music has the power to unite, uplift, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Smart care for smart homes

How to take care of your appliances at home

How often do you clean your household appliances? Do you know the right way to clean your microwave or fridge or television or washing machine? While it's always in the manual, we never care to read much about it. All the electronic appliances that make your domestic life easy need love and care as well, especially if you wish a long and durable life. Not only will it do wonders to your quality of life, but will also help you save money in the long run. If your warranty period has expired or you do not want to shell extra bills on maintenance, you can do it at home as well, with caution.

Let's take you through step-by-step procedures of cleaning and maintaining the health and life of white goods at your home.

Refrigerator Home Care Tips

- Do not overload your fridge with food items. Make sure you let enough space inside for free air movement.
- Overloading leads to extra pressure on the compressor, which may lead to ageing of your appliance.
- Make sure you use fridge storage optimally. Keeping items in designated spaces helps in cutting the crowd and also helping your device in keeping the items fresh and cool.
- Make sure to keep your refrigerator's condenser coils clean and cool.
- Always use the correct temperature settings. The refrigerator temperature must be set at four-degree Celsius, and the freezer should ideally be at -15 to -18 degree celsius.
- Keep the refrigerator door gasket clean and operational.
- Do not keep very heavy bottles in the door storage section.
- Never keep hot food in the fridge. Always wait for the food item to reach room temperature before storing it in the refrigerator.
- Never open the fridge doors for a long time. It affects the overall temperature.

Washing Machine Home Care Tips

- The best way to add life to your machine is by doing small loads of laundry as large loads often damage your washer.
- Be careful of the things you put in your washing machine. Never wash leather or rubber items and also avoid things like heavy carpets.
- Keep the inside drum clean by wiping it with a dry cloth every 15 days. It will keep your machine clean off any kind of soapy residue, dirt, threads etc.
- Make sure you never let coins, food items, chewing gum, etc. things remain in the pockets while doing the load. It could lead to a breakdown of the device if a metal item of chewing gum gets stuck in the vaults or hoses.
- After washing and drying clothes, keep the machine door open for some time to let the moisture and dampness evaporate.
- Use detergents that aren't very harsh. Harsh detergents not only could ruin your clothes, but it could also damage the life of your washing machine.
- Never use too much detergent as it could leave residue in the washer.
- Keep the washer clean once a month by running an empty load of hot water with 2 cups of white vinegar. In the middle of the wash cycle, add a half cup of detergent, and let the full wash cycle complete.
- Keep a check on the external hoses and pipes to ensure there aren't any cuts or other damages.
- If you have a semi-automatic machine, make sure to transfer the load to the dryer as soon as it is done.

Microwave Home Care Tips

- Never put any metal container or any utensil or object with metal trim inside the microwave.
- Never put aluminium foil, dishware with gold or silver accents and non-microwavable plastic ware into the microwave. This could lead to a fire hazard.
- Always heat any sealed food container or packed food or beverage item after removing the seal, or it could lead to an explosion.
- Never cover the top of the microwave when it is in use. Do not keep anything over the top of the microwave.
- Microwaves can retain food spills and stains. So it is essential to clean it now and then to avoid any rotten smell or spoil.
- Never try to stop the microwave by pulling the door. It could affect the health of your device ghastly. Always use the stop button before opening the door. Also never slam shut it.
- Never run an empty microwave.
- Respect the weight limitations of your microwave.
- Never try to overload your microwave, or its combustion may give up.
- Keep your microwave clean at all times.

Dishwasher Home Care Tips

- The bottom tray of your dishwater holds the leftover food residue and grease, etc. Make sure to keep the trays clean periodically. This will also help in the efficient cleaning of your dishes.
- Make sure to clear out the pray armholes from time to time. Sometimes, the held over residue makes it difficult for the spray arm to do its job correctly. To clean the arm, you can use liquid detergent or vinegar-water mix to clean it.
- If your dishwasher has a filter, make sure to clean it every month.
- Never dump dishes with excess food or leftovers in the dishwasher as it could lead to clogged drains, and if the food items or grease gets stuck in the pipe, it could also let out a foul smell.
- Follow a proper cycle for dishes. Go for a heavy cycle for pots and pans and pick light cycles for plates, spoons, small bowls etc.
- Never overload your dishwasher. Always be strategic with loading to ensure the dishes get enough space and water to get cleaned.
- Clean the rubber seals with wipes regularly.
- Keep the door of the dishwasher also clean to avoid grime and grease from building up. Use a damp cloth dipped in a cleaning solution to do this.

Mixer Grinder/Juicer/ Blender Home Care Tips

- Keep your mixer grinder clean. You can use lemon peels or baking powder to remove the stubborn grime on your food processor. Make a paste of equal parts baking powder and water and apply it on your appliance. Let it stay for 15 minutes and wash it with clean water.
- Always make sure that the jars fit perfectly into the blades.
- Make sure to follow a weekly cleaning routine for the jars and the machine.
- Never use too hot ingredients in the jar as it could lead to severe damage to the machine and the blades.
- Keep your appliance in a designated space in the kitchen. Avoid moving it too often.
- Always use only recommended accessories

-Femina

FOR AC & TV

Air Conditioner Home Care Tips

- **To give long life and healthy run to your AC, you should routinely replace or clean the air filters.**
- **Clean the AC coils regularly to avoid the accumulation of debris and dust on the panels.**
- **Keep the main switch off when the AC is not in use.**
- **Keep the outer cover, also called fins, cleaned regularly. You can easily remove it and wash it with hose water.**
- **Keep the area around your AC cleaned.**
- **Ideally, run your AC at 22-24 degree celsius to avoid over-usage. This will also help in moderating your electricity bill.**
- **Avoid touching the AC panel switches with a moist hand as it could lead to damages.**
- **Get your AC serviced every 3-4 months and always before the summer.**

TV care tips

- **Turn off your TV regularly.**
- **If you reside in an area that faces power surge or lights out issues, you should use a surge protector or a voltage regulator.**
- **Adjust the brightness of your TV screen to the highest level can not only give you eye health issues but will also reduce your television set's life.**
- **Never put your TV set on high contrast levels as it could reduce the lifespan of your flat screen.**
- **Stop abusing TV sets by continually keeping them on. Give them breathing space.**
- **Regularly clean your TV sets using a dry cloth. Never use damp wipes or water to clean your TV.**

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₹18 lakh in fines collected during special traffic drive

Bengaluru Traffic Police register 1,130 violations, focusing on no-entry and one-way rule breaches, along with footpath misuse and mobile phone use

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A five-hour special traffic drive conducted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police on Tuesday, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, resulted in 1,130 cases. No-entry violations emerged as the most frequent offence, with 372 cases booked. Breaking the one-way rule yielded the highest fine with Rs 1.56 lakh collected in 311 cases.

Footpath-related violations stood out, with 124 cases booked for riding or parking on pedestrian pathways, collecting Rs.62,500 in penalties. Additionally, in cases like using mobile phones while driving 64 cases were booked resulting in Rs.1.02 lakh fine collection; there were also 81 cases of triple riding and 49 cases booked for footpath misuse added to the haul.

Additionally, on Monday, a special operation conducted in the East Division led to the registration of 376 cases against motorists and drivers violating traffic rules. Over 350 cases were recorded, with Rs.1,88,000 in fines collected. Traffic officials emphasised that enforcing traffic rules is crucial and highlighted the ongoing efforts to raise awareness about their importance. The special operation is set to continue in the coming days.

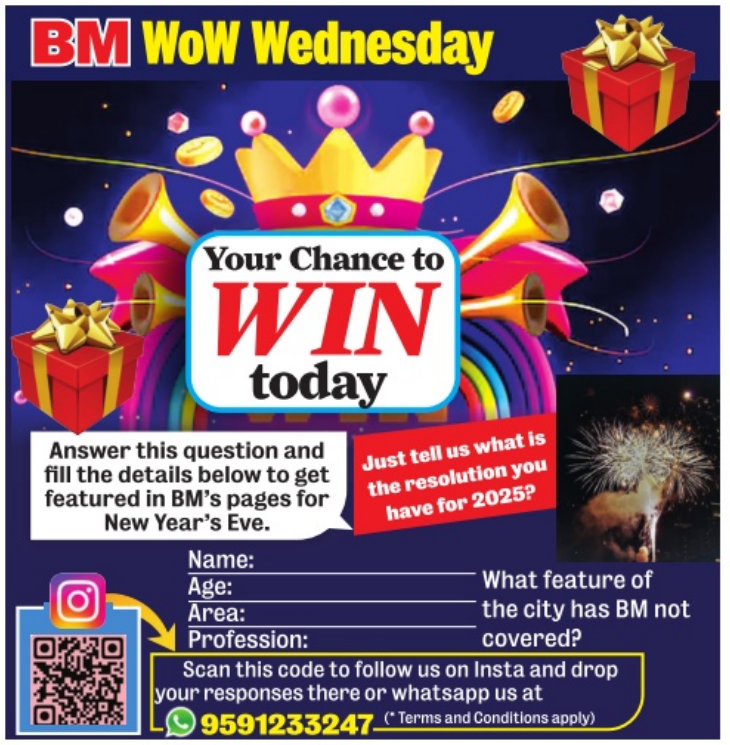
A total of 2,091 cases under the IMV Act led to ₹10,55,700 in fines

"6,685 vehicles were checked to curb drunk driving, leading to 120 cases against motorists caught drunk driving

On the same day, a special drive by the Traffic Police in the West Division led to strict action against traffic violators. A total of 2,091 cases were registered under the IMV (Motor Vehicle) Act, resulting in the collection of Rs.10,55,700 in fines.

Key violations included 485 cases for driving against one-way/no-entry rules, accounting for Rs.2,43,100 in fines, and 1,529 cases categorised as "other violations," contributing Rs.7,88,000 to the total. Footpath misuse saw 43 parking violations and 20 riding cases, while 31 instances of triple riding were booked.

During a special drive conducted on Monday to curb driving under the influence of alcohol, over 6,685 vehicles were checked. As a result, 120 cases were registered against motorists found guilty of drinking and driving.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IMA scam: Investors seek Presidential intervention

Victims of the I Monetary Advisory (IMA) scam and concerned citizens led by activist TJ Abraham have submitted a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu, through the Governor of Karnataka, requesting her intervention in the case. The plea seeks directives to the Ministry of Home Affairs to expedite the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) inquiry into alleged malpractices by senior IPS officer Hemant Nimbalkar.

The IMA scam, one of Karnataka's largest financial frauds, unraveled in 2019 when over 50,000 investors, primarily from the Muslim community, were duped into depositing their savings in a Ponzi scheme promising Sharia-compliant, high returns. The scam amounted to a staggering Rs.4,000 crore. — BMB

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FARNAZ

Chartered accountants arrested over ₹56 lakh cyber scam

Two chartered accountants and their accomplices are arrested for duping accountant by posing as MD in cyber scam; police trace fraud, nab all six

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c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
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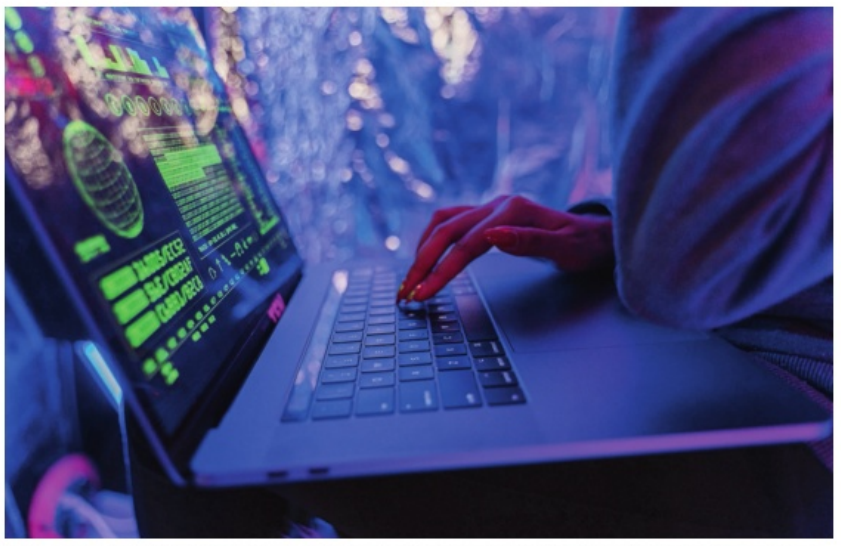

Accused withdrew money, converted into cryptocurrency and sold it for profit

Two chartered accountants and their accomplices were arrested by the South East Division Cyber Crime Police for duping an accountant of a private firm by sending a message, instructing her to transfer the amount as a project advance and cheating her of ₹56 lakh. The incident occurred on December 6.

The accountant received a message in which the accused created a fake profile and posed as the company's managing director (MD), using the official logo and name. According to the police, the accountant was asked to transfer ₹56.1 lakh as an advance for a project, and she transferred the amount. Later, when she checked with her MD to confirm, it was known that she had been scammed.

The accused include N Dinesh (24), a Chartered Accountant (CA) working in the Telugu film industry, and Yenumala (32), a high school dropout and Assistant Director. Grishma Reddy (23), a CA and Assistant Director-Scriptwriter, and VA Pawan Kumar (24), another CA, are among the arrested. The group further includes Harath MS (23) and N Sai Kumar (22), a commerce graduate and cab driver. All six individuals have been arrested by the police.

The police tracked the fraud through the money trail and arrested Sai Kumar, the cab driver whose account was used for the transfer. The investigation revealed the accused had withdrawn the money, converted it into cryptocurrency, and sold it through a mobile app for a profit.

Upon interrogation, Sai Kumar confessed, leading to the arrest of the remaining gang members. The police recovered mobile phones, a car, and ₹56,600 in cash from the accused. Additionally, they froze a bank account containing ₹5 lakh deposited by the gang.

> **Cybercrime is evolving at an alarming rate, it requires constant vigilance. To address this, Police have started creating and sharing information on social media** –Sara Fatima, DCP

Awareness

DCP (Deputy Commissioner of Police) Sara Fatima emphasised the importance of awareness in tackling the growing menace of cybercrime, urging individuals to be cautious about the links they click, the information they share, and the platforms they engage with.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, she said, "Cybercrime is evolving at an alarming rate, and it requires constant vigilance from both individuals and authorities. To address this, the South East Division Police have started creating and sharing informative videos on social media. These videos aim to educate the public about potential threats and preventive measures. Awareness is key, and through this initiative, we hope to empower citizens to stay one step ahead of cybercriminals."

Burglar arrested, ₹39.6 lakh recovered

The Hennur police arrested a burglar linked to 11 other burglary cases in the same area, along with nearly 6 additional cases reported across the city.

The case began when a resident of Chalakkere filed a complaint at the Hennur police station. The complainant reported a theft that occurred on July 20 involving 20 grams of gold ornaments, 200 grams of silver items, and ₹30,000 in cash, all of which were stolen from a locker that the burglar had forcibly opened.

After months of investigation, the police apprehended the accused Mohammed Khan (47) near HBR Layout. The police traced and seized the stolen items. The total value of the recovered items amounted to ₹39.6 lakh.

Cash stolen from temple recovered

Three habitual offenders have been arrested by the KR Puram police who were involved in thefts from temple donation boxes and vehicles, recovering four two-wheelers and cash worth ₹4.6 lakh. According to the police, the accused had broken into the Kote Venkataramana Swamy Temple and stole cash from the donation box on November 29. Based on a complaint filed by the temple priest, the police reviewed CCTV footage and tracked down the suspects in Andhra Pradesh.

Following their arrest, the police recovered the stolen cash.

ವಿಕಲಂಟ್ ಕೋಚಿಂಗ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿಸ್
ಆಶ್ರಮ ರೋಡ, ಆದರ್ಶ ನಗರ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
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Founder Chairman
2023-24 Result
Sainik Schools - 435
Karnataka - 167
Others States - 268
Navodaya Schools - 102
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Above 95%
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Separate Hostel Facility Available For Boys & Girls

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Delicious Christmas menu in red, green, and white

The Christmas season is here, and you're probably adding the finishing touches to planning your festive lunch or dinner. While your decor, clothes and table arrangements undoubtedly reflect the spirit and colours of the season, red, white and green, here are simple ways to turn around your menu and extend the same colour code to your food as well. Try out these options, and we promise, you won't be disappointed.

Healthy feast For healthy eaters, you can serve a salad with spinach, pomegranate seeds and assorted nuts. Add cheese if you're feeling indulgent, and toss with balsamic vinegar just before serving.

Colourful dip Give the ubiquitous hummus a makeover by adding beets to the mix, for that luscious red colour. Garnish with feta and assorted herbs. Serve with green veggies like cucumber.

Holiday crunch Guests are sure to want to munch on something fuss-free while sipping on Christmas cocktails, and what better than nuts? An innovative way to serve them is to scoop out the filling from red and green apples and place assorted nuts inside. Hand over an apple to each guest.

Guacamole eggs Sliced fully boiled eggs into half, take out the yolk, and pour in guacamole instead. Then place a tiny roll of salmon on top. This dish works perfectly as an appetiser but can also serve as a main course.

Tree-shaped pizzas If you're having kids at the party, these mini pizzas are sure to be a hit. Using large cookie or cake cutters, make the base dough of the pizza into the shape of a Christmas tree, then bake. For toppings, add basil, cheese and cherry tomatoes.

Mains served Use either roast chicken, or grilled lamb rack as the base, and then drizzle with red currant or cranberry sauce. This is best served as mains, individually plated.

Vegetarian treat If you want to impress your vegetarian and health-conscious guests, opt for a Finnish red cabbage casserole, which is a traditional Christmas food and very easy to make. Key ingredients include red cabbage, red onions, beet, cinnamon and oatmeal flour.

Berry-licious cheesecake While Christmas cake and the Yule Log are all great options, you stay colour-coordinated for dessert as well with a homemade cheesecake, topped up with fresh raspberries or strawberries, and a sprig of mint.

–Femina

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In keeping with essence of RTE Act

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

without fear or prejudice," he said.

However Kumar said the quality of education has been slipping. He gave an example, "At a recent teachers' association meeting in Koppal, educators highlighted alarming issues within the education system. Around 7,000 SSLC students in government and aided schools lack basic literacy in Kannada, their mother tongue, and possess minimal math skills. How can such students pass the exams? This concern reflects the broader situation in many districts across Karnataka, emphasising the need for government intervention. The current state of education, where focus has shifted away from core learning, is a matter of grave concern. Addressing this decline and ensuring accountability within the education department is crucial."

He said that a recent CAG survey report highlighted a year-on-year decline in learning outcomes in Karnataka. The data underscores the need for immediate corrective measures. Despite children having cognitive potential, the lack of structured and quality education from early childhood levels has led to alarming learning gaps, he said. "Policies allowing automatic promotion from grades one to eight, combined with leniency in grade 9 and intense pressure in grade 10, have created an ineffective system. Issues like insufficient teachers, delayed textbooks, and poor foundational education in primary schools further exacerbate the problem. The burden of delivering results falls disproportionately on teachers, leaving little room for genuine learning. The RTE Act's Section 16 amendment in 2019 introduced measures allowing students with learning difficulties to be held back in specific grades based on their performance. This approach, already in practice in over 3,000 Central Government schools, ensures students meet minimum learning standards before progressing. Karnataka is being urged to implement similar policies, recognising that compassion without quality will not improve education outcomes," he added.

According to Niranjanaradhya, however, the RTE Act of 2009, was not intended to dilute academic rigour. "The Act introduced and implemented by the UPA government, marked a milestone in ensuring free and compulsory education for children. This legislation was the result of a century-long struggle and was launched by then-Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on April 10, 2010. It guaranteed the fundamental right to quality education for every child, prohibiting the expulsion or detention of children up to Class 8 under Section 16 of the Act. The essence of this provision was not to dilute academic rigor but to ensure that every child receives a comprehensive and holistic learning experience. It placed the onus of imparting quality education on the system and educators, emphasizing child-centered teaching methods and continuous comprehensive evaluation (CCE)," he added.

However, according to him, the recent amendments to the RTE Act by the Central Government, particularly the introduction of mandatory annual examinations for Classes 5 and 8, undermine the core principles of this landmark legislation. These rules threaten to disrupt the continuity of learning, promote fear among students, and increase dropout rates. The imposition of exams as a one-time assessment tool runs counter to the child-friendly and progressive evaluation methods envisaged by the RTE Act.

He said, "Detaining students or declaring them as "failed" based on annual examinations is counterproductive. This approach disregards the child's learning environment, teacher support, and emotional well-being. Moreover, fear of exams can erode confidence and motivation among young learners. CCE, on the other hand, focuses on skill-building and development, fostering curiosity and a love for learning."

Another hurdle hits tender process

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

months. In September, yet another foaming episode was reported. Moreover, a city-based NGO recently conducted a water quality analysis of samples collected from Arkavathi. The report showed alarming levels of heavy metals and toxic substances, including mercury, the banned pesticide DDT, cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and fluoride in the water samples.

Following media reports on the findings of the study, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued notices to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) after registering a suo motu case regarding high levels of heavy metals and toxic substances in the river.

Notably, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has approached KSPCB regarding the need for an ETP to treat industrial effluents from the Peenya Industrial area before it enters the river stretch near TG Halli, but the project has not taken off so far.

A few months ago (before September), yet another tender to construct an ETP to treat industrial effluents in the area was floated by KSPCB, but it was canceled due to the model code of conduct for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 and Karnataka MLC elections.

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Item of work	Approx. Value
Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of KAVACH equipment and other associated works over 778 RKM of Bengaluru and Mysuru Divisions of South Western Railway.	Rs. 191,82,23,167.80

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Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Project, Hubballi

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abhishek Baghel R/o Flat.101, Shrusti Homes, 29th Cross Road, Kaggadasapura,B'luru-560093 have changed my name to Abhishek Vijay Singh Baghel Affidavit Dt.24/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Venkatalakshmamma R/O No 48, Nti Layout, 1st Phase, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Kodigehalli, Blr-92. I Changed My Name From Venkatalakshamma To Venkatalakshmamma For All Future Purposes.

I, Vivek Kubaji Ramesh, S/o. Ramesh R. K., R/o. 004, B Block, DS Max Serenity, Roopena Agrahara, Bommanahalli,, B'lore-068, have changed my name to VIVEK KUBAJI vide affidavit Dtd: 24/12/24 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

I, Dilip Kumar Rajauriya, R/o SLV greens Apartment, Belathur Main Road, Kadugodi, Banglore Karnataka-560067 have changed my minor son from Aarav Rajauriya to Abhiraaz Rajauriya

I Mohammad Iqbal Guledgudd S/O, Hasanahmed Guledgudd R/o No 45 4th Floor 1st Cross Venkataswamappa Layout Lr Bande Kavalbyrasandra R T Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name to Mohammediqbal Hasanahmed Guledgudd.

I Mussaddik Guledgudd S/O, Mohammed Iqbal Guledgudd R/o No 45 4th Floor 1st Cross Venkataswamappa Layout Lr Bande Kavalbyrasandra R T Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name to Mussaddik Mohammed Iqbal Guledgudd.

I, G K Vikaram, Vikram Gonagandala Karnam Residing at No 157, 37th Cross, 26th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041, Have changed my name to VIKRAM KARNAM, vide affidavit dtd 24/12/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Hajeera Begum Ambur Sajjad w/o G.M.Saadulla Baig r/a #10/1-1 6th cross , Hutchins Road ,St.Thomas Town Post ,Bangalore -560084 have changed my name to Hajjeeirra Saad dt-12/12/2024

WE, Nirmal Kumar B Sharma and N Anju Sharma R/o No.16, Sri sai Paradise, SF-1, 2nd flr, 3rd main, Srinivasanagar, BSK 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed our minor son name from Chirayu Sharma to N Chirayu Sharma Affidavit Dt.24/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Abida Banu Mohammad Iqbal Guledgudd W/O, Mohammed Iqbal H Guledgudd R/o No 45 4th Floor 1st Cross Venkataswamappa Layout Lr Bande Kavalbyrasandra R T Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name to Abida Mohammed Iqbal Guledgudd.

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HANDLOOMS | HOME DECOR | HANDICRAFTS | CLOTHING | JEWELLERY

Now thermal printers at railway stations

This quick, secure and efficient ticketing system to be expanded citywide soon

KSR station (File photo)

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Bengaluru Railway Division has introduced thermal printers at key railway stations to improve ticketing efficiency and prevent fraud. The system, launched on Sunday, includes the installation of two printers at KSR Bengaluru City station, which according to sources manages around 12,000 to 13,000 unreserved tickets daily.

Similar printers have been deployed at other major stations, including Yeshwantpur, KR Puram, and Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT), which collectively see footfalls of nearly a lakh passengers daily. These stations are among the busiest in the city, making the initiative a significant step toward enhancing convenience for travellers.

How does it help?

A standout feature of these thermal-printed tickets is that they come with unique QR codes, allowing ticket examiners to verify their authenticity using a specialised app. This feature minimises the risk of duplication and fraud. Additionally, thermal printers eliminate the need for ribbon cartridges, resulting in cost savings and reduced maintenance requirements.

These printers also enhance ticketing efficiency by cutting printing time from 20 seconds with traditional dot matrix printers to just 2 seconds. The improved clarity eliminates issues like printing errors caused by ink smudging. The QR code adds a layer of security, enabling Traveling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) to validate tickets using handheld devices, helping to prevent fraud such as ticket rewriting or tampering, a problem that has been seen in at least four cases reported at SMVT since August, officials noted.

> **“The inclusion of QR codes on thermal-printed tickets ensures greater security. TTEs can quickly scan and verify authenticity of tickets**
>
> –Thrinethra KR, DCM, Bengaluru

“The inclusion of QR codes on thermal-printed tickets ensures greater security. With handheld devices, TTEs can quickly scan and verify the authenticity of tickets, effectively curbing duplication and fraud,” said Thrinethra KR, Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM), Bengaluru.

Reduces passenger's waiting time

With daily footfalls exceeding one lakh at KSR Bengaluru and Yeshwantpur stations and over 50,000 at KR Puram and SMVT, the introduction of thermal printers is set to benefit a large number of passengers. These printers are cost-effective to maintain and have greatly reduced passenger waiting times.

“This is a trial initiative implemented at key stations, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The printers are cost-effective to maintain and have significantly reduced passenger waiting times. We plan to extend this facility to other stations within the next month,” added Thrinethra, enabling future of efficient ticketing.

Traffic advisory

To ensure smooth traffic flow during Christmas celebrations at St Mary's Basilica Church, the Shivajinagar Traffic Police have implemented special arrangements from 8 pm on December 24 to 8 pm on December 25, 2024. Parking restrictions are in place on Meenakshi Koil Street (Shivaji Circle to OPH Road), Central Street (from Central Street Junction to Jyothi Café Junction), and Narona Road (from Church Narona Road to RMS Junction). Parking facilities have been arranged at the Shivajinagar BMTC Bus Stand on the 1st and 2nd floors. The public is requested to cooperate and adhere to these arrangements for a hassle-free experience.

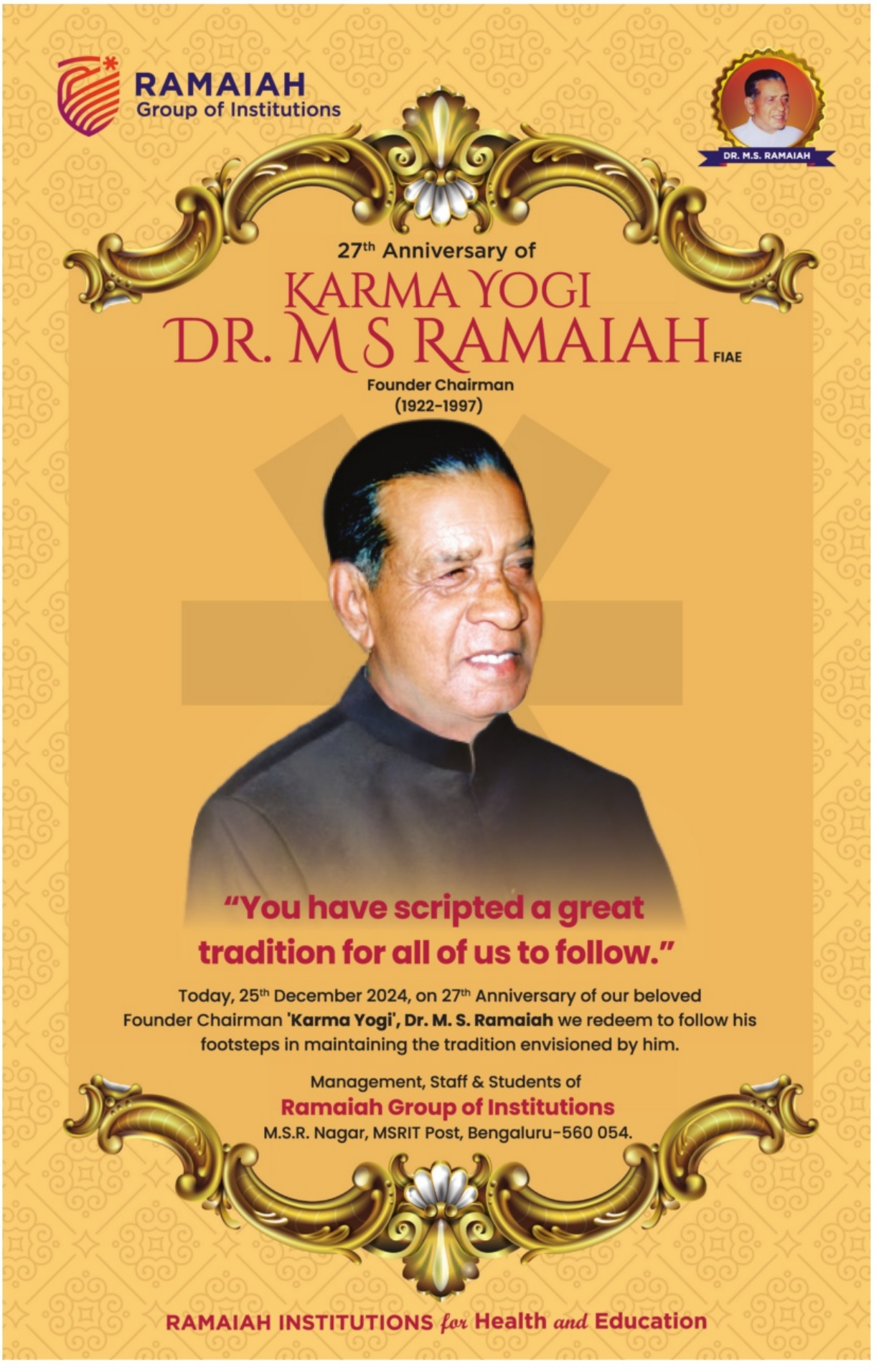
Traffic restrictions near Holy Ghost Church

A large gathering is anticipated at Holy Ghost Church within Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police Station limits from December 24, 2024, 7 pm, to December 25, 2024, 12 pm. To ensure smooth traffic flow, Davis Road will be temporarily closed between John Armstrong Road Junction and Cookson Road Junction.

As an alternative, vehicles heading from Davis Road to HM Road can take a right at John Armstrong Road Junction, proceed straight, turn left at Viviani Road, continue straight, turn left at Cookson Road, rejoin Davis Road, and take a right to reach HM Road.

Parking restrictions will apply on Davis Road, Banasawadi Main Road, Wheeler's Road, St John's Church Road, Hains Road, and Promenade Road during this period.

The public is requested to adhere to the arrangements and cooperate for a hassle-free Christmas Eve celebration.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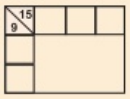
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

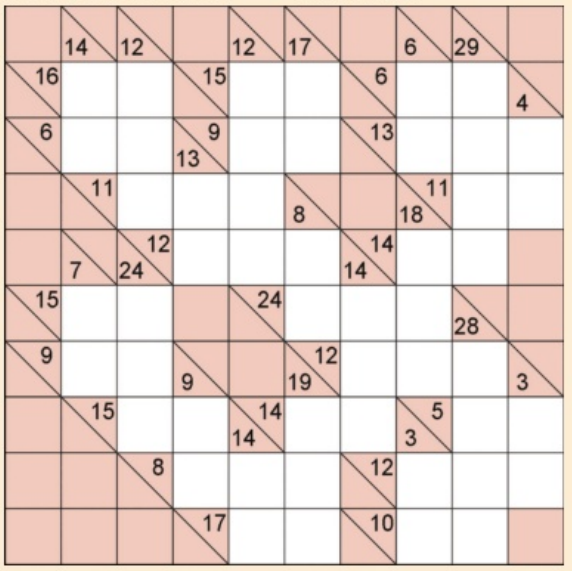
What is the third prime number that is the sum of three consecutive prime numbers?

Kakuro

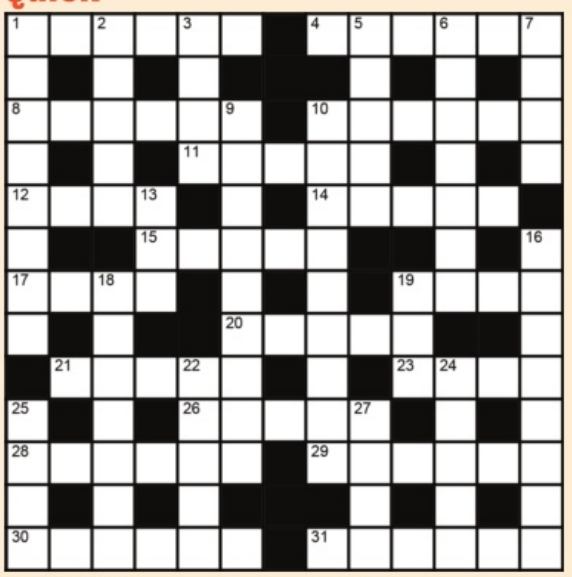
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Optical illusion (6)
4 Meagre (6)
8 Saying; maxim (6)
10 Tell with confidence (6)
11 Wooden buckets (5)
12 Zulu warrior tribe (4)
14 Did an usher's job (3,2)
15 Not very clear (5)
17 Back current (4)
19 Elbe tributary (4)
20 Taking it easy on the bed, perhaps (5)
21 Trunk (5)
23 Jubilation (4)
26 Verity (5)
28 Paper handkerchief (6)
29 Gained by work (6)
30 Penalise (6)
31 Very thin (6)

DOWN

1 They help during childbirth (8)
2 Sum up (5)
3 Rise or ascend (2,2)
5 Sheriff's men (5)
6 Making active or excited (7)
7 Avenged (4)
9 Port city in Karnataka (9)
10 Relieve; mitigate (9)
13 A climbing vine (3)
16 Amiable (8)
18 Pays a surprise visit (5,2)
19 Breakfast staple (3)
22 Small projects or nails? (5)
24 First Soviet premier (5)
25 Stride (4)
27 Unoriginal writer (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G

RLZO LF XNLV, NVCAVO MBA FNCF GLZ_ZOKOVHRC LF FOR-RLVT FAYOHBLVT.

Linemaro

Even if there was no gravity on earth, I'd still fall for you

Mindchow

If you're in trouble, or hurt or need --
go to the poor people.
They're the only ones that'll help

Joke of the day

Is it bad to hate a certain race?
Because I hate the 100 meter

Loop

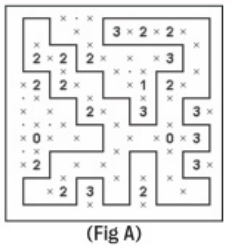
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

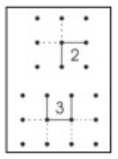
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

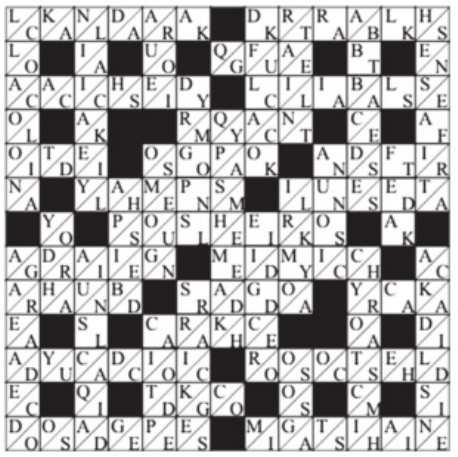


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

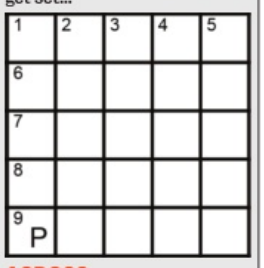
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

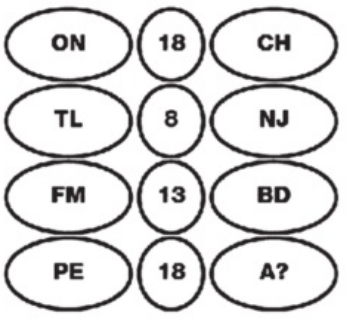
1 Trass; 6 Halma; 7 Voile; 8 Cadre; 9 Spire

DOWN

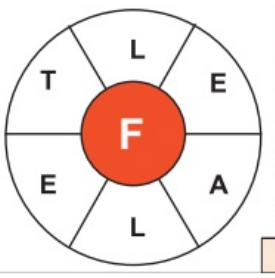
1 Port H; 2 Alias; 3 I acme; 4 V rare; 5 Delss

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes this puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 12 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1				5		
		6	8		7	4		
8	4		5		3		2	6
	5			8			3	
				9				
	6			3			5	
4	2		3		1		6	7
		7	6		2	8		
		5				3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

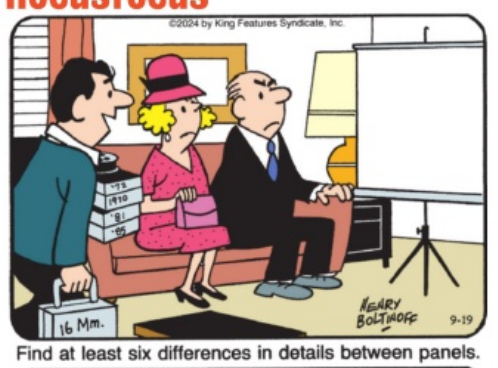
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16
1 3 5 9

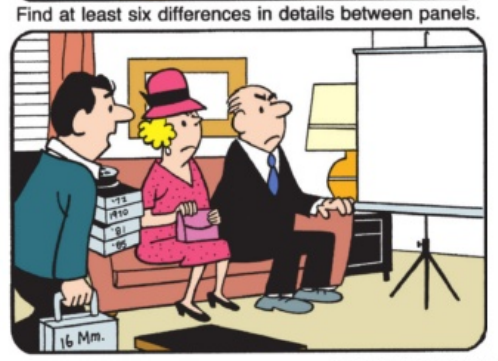
Medium = 11
1 2 6 6

Hard = 36
3 6 6 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



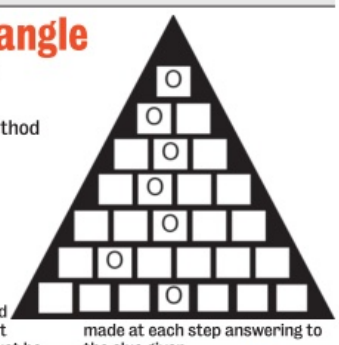
Differences: 1. Hand is showing. 2. Mouth is different. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Screen is larger. 5. Lampshade is smaller. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

A man hiked through the woods with his dog and saw three coyotes, six wolf cubs, seven bunnies, nine squirrels and thirteen chipmunks. How many total feet were there?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Overtime, abbr.
3 Foot feature
4 Memorization method
5 Put away
6 Woods
7 Endeavours



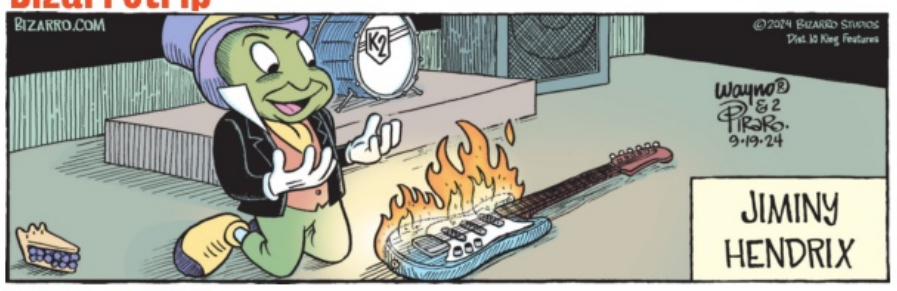
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT CAT'S SURGERY?
SEE! DEAN KNOWS ABOUT THE SURGERY!
EVERYONE DOES. SHE WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT.
THIS IS IT. THIS IS THE END OF KAT'S AND MY FRIENDSHIP! SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH CAT.
OKAY, NOW I'M CONFUSED.
ME TOO!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEONE COULD DO THIS!
ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT THAT BOOKS CAME INTO EXISTENCE... PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BURN THEM.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT... BURNING A BOOK IS AN UNFORTUNATE TWO-FER.
YOU DAMAGE SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE SAME TIME!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today might bring dullness and potential health concerns. Avoid making business investments or starting new ventures, as losses are likely. Gains may convert into losses; caution is advised.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Domestic harmony will bring joy today. You might meet an influential person who can aid in your career. Success at work could lead to rewards or promotions. Disputes over inherited property may resolve.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Good health and focus drive your success today. Your excellent performance at work might earn you important responsibilities. Legal matters may resolve in your favour, and you'll gain control over rivals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today favours learning and intellectual pursuits. Controlling your temper will lead to smoother task execution. Moderate financial gains are likely, but be cautious with new investments. Love birds may enjoy quality moments together.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, dissatisfaction may lead to detachment from responsibilities. Avoid hypothetical planning and focus on practical tasks. Take care of your parents, and if considering migration, postpone it for now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is a positive day with professional and personal success. Timely completion of tasks boosts confidence. A short work-related trip may enhance your network and yield future benefits.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Domestic matters dominate your day. While shopping, avoid overspending on unnecessary items, as this could invite negativity. Keep your tone gentle to maintain harmony with those around you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, comfort returns after a chaotic period. Your vitality aids in making crucial decisions, potentially boosting a family business. Assisting the needy enhances your social standing, and students find clarity in career choices.

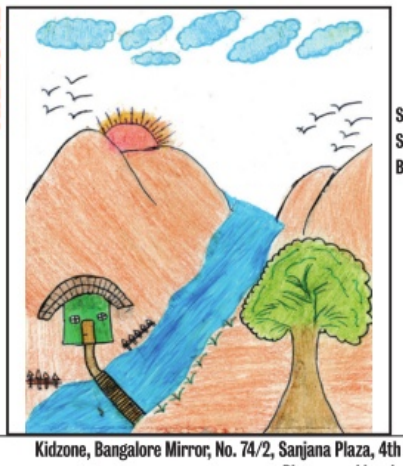
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, health issues may cause impatience, and short temper should be controlled. Avoid spending on frivolous items to protect savings. Love birds should steer clear of unnecessary arguments to prevent conflicts.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Networking is key today, and an influential person may guide your progress. New ideas and increased capital investment in business promise future financial gains. Family gatherings or social events will keep you engaged.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Improved health for your mother adds positivity to the day. Recognition at work enhances your social respect. However, overworking may lead to fatigue, potentially affecting family commitments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, contentment at work leads to planning a short business trip or visiting a religious place for peace. Guidance from mentors may bring clarity and alignment with your goals.

KIDZONE



Sadhvi Sanju, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
+3+5=10
5+5+7=15
5+7+11=23 1st
7+11+13=31 2nd
11+13+17=41 3rd

BULL'S EYE
fall, fate, feat, feel, feet, fell, felt, fete, flat, flea, flee, fleet, leaf, LEAFLET, left

RIDDLER
Two. The man has two feet. The rest of the animals have paws.

FAST FIVE

T	S	A	R	S
H	A	M	A	L
O	L	I	V	E
R	A	C	E	D
P	I	E	R	S

STRIKE OUT

C	A	N	A	R	A	K	R	A	V	A	L	S		
O	I		U		O	U	A		B		E			
C	A	C	H	E	D		L	I	A	B	L	E		
O	K			R	Y	A	N		E		F			
O	D	D	E		S	O	A	K		A	S	T	I	
N		L	A	M	P	S		I	N	S	E	T		
G	R	I	E	G		M	I	M	I	C		C		
	O		P	U	S	H	E	R	S		A			
N		V	A	G	U	E		N		F				
I	M	P	I		N		L	E	D	I	N			
V		A		P	A	I	L	S		S		N		
D	I	C	T	U	M		A	S	S	U	R	E		
I		E		O		O		V						
C	A	N	I	S	H		S	K	I	N	N	Y		
P	U	N	I	S	H		S	K	I	N	N	Y		

QUICK

M	I	R	A	G	E		S	P	A	R	S	E		
E		I		O		O		O				V		
D	I	C	T	U	M		A	S	S	U	R	E		
C	A	C	H	E	D		L	I	A	B	L	E		
O	K			R	Y	A	N		E		F			
O	D	D	E		S	O	A	K		A	S	T	I	
N		L	A	M	P	S		I	N	S	E	T		
G	R	I	E	G		M	I	M	I	C		C		
	O		P	U	S	H	E	R	S		A			
N		V	A	G	U	E		N		F				
I	M	P	I		N		L	E	D	I	N			
V		A		P	A	I	L	S		S		N		
D	I	C	T	U	M		A	S	S	U	R	E		
I		E		O		O		V						
C	A	N	I	S	H		S	K	I	N	N	Y		

MENSA PUZZLE
8. In each row, the value in the centre equals the difference between the sum of the numerical values of the pair of letters to the left and the pair of letters to the right.

QUOTE UNCODE
Life is pain, anyone who says differently is selling something.

SUDOKU

2	7	1	4	6	9	5	8	3
5	3	6	8	2	7	4	9	1
8	4	9	5	1	3	7	2	6
7	5	4	1	8	6	2	3	9
1	8	3	2	9	5	6	7	4
9	6	2	7	3	4	1	5	8
4	2	8	3	5	1	9	6	7
3	9	7	6	4	2	8	1	5
6	1	5	9	7	8	3	4	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0 , OT, Toe, Rote, Store, Forest, Efforts.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 5 − 1 + 3 = 16
Medium
6 + 6 + 1 − 2 = 11
Hard
4 x 3 − 6 x 6 = 36

LOOP

KAKURO

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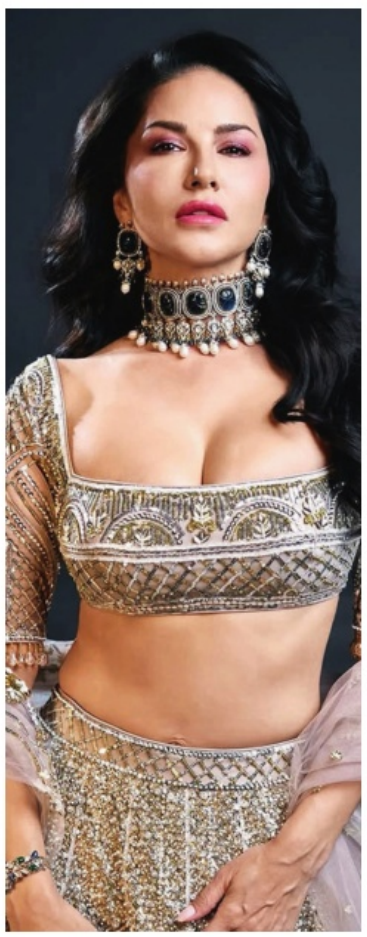
Grilled — Police grill actor Allu Arjun for over 3 hours in theatre stampede case; ask about sequence of events

Identity theft

Sunny Leone reacts to conman registering under her name to get govt benefits



Sunny Leone recently reacted to an unfortunate incident in Chattisgarh where a fraudster registered her name as a beneficiary under a government scheme specially designed to provide financial assistance to economically weaker married women. The scheme offered Rs1,000 per month while the registration in Leone's name was completely fraudulent. The news was discovered when Chhattisgarh officials came across the name of Sunny Leone among the beneficiaries of the scheme with her husband mentioned as "Johnny Sins," who is an adult film star.

Leone took to social media to express her disappointment over the incident. She mentioned that it is unfortunate, and the misuse of schemes, which were intended for the welfare and empowerment of women, was distressing. She turned to Instagram and said, "It is unfortunate to learn about the fraud incident in Chhattisgarh, where my identity/name has been falsely used. It is sad to see a scheme designed to empower and benefit women being misused and misrepresented in this way." Leone was very strong in her condemnation of the fraudulent act and pledged to stand with the authorities in the investigation of the case. She continued with the statement, "I strongly condemn this act and fully support the authorities to conduct a thorough probe over this issue."

The scam came to the fore when some local Chhattisgarh authorities began an inquiry into suspicious beneficiary claims. They found that the individual had been receiving payments on behalf of Leone since March 2024. The man was identified as Virendra Joshi from Bastar. — **ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Full circle

The cast and crew of Chowkidar are excited as the shooting of the film was wrapped up at Bande Mahakali Temple, which was also where its shooting had kicked off. Prithvi Ambar of Diya fame and Dhanya Ramkumar are the lead pair while Chandrasekhar Bandiyappa has helmed the film.

On the occasion, Prithvi Ambar said he has learnt a lot from this movie and the director guided him during the shooting. "The director is able to understand and respond to the feelings of others. Senior actor Sai Kumar's presence on the sets motivated and encouraged us," said Prithvi. Emphasising on the need to preserve the trust of the producer, director Bandiyappa appreciated producer Kallahalli Chandrasekhar's dedication towards the movie. "We are arranging to release the movie's teaser for Sankranti and release the movie in May. Saikumar and Prithvi Ambaar play a father and son in the movie which is expected to release in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam simultaneously," the director said.

Dhayna Ramkumar said she was very happy to get an opportunity to play the lead in the movie.

Night shoot

KV Ramanaraj debuts as a director in Sandalwood with FIR 6to6 that was shot for 35 days in Bengaluru. Vijay Raghavendra plays the lead in the movie that focuses on incidents that happened between 6 pm and 6 am. Bhagya Ramesh, who bankrolled Kannada movie Pattabhisheka, is the producer for this movie.

A function was held at Renukamba Preview Theater on Saturday to unveil the movie's teaser and audio. "It is a movie based on fictional incidents that take place at night. I have also directed a Telugu movie in which JD Chakravarthy plays the lead and the movie is scheduled for release shortly. I am very happy with the cooperation and acting of Vijay Raghavendra for FIR 6to6. We are planning to release the movie next month," said Ramanaraj.

Vijay Raghavendra said the movie is a dream of producer Bhagya Ramesh and director Ramanaraj. "It is an action thriller. The director put up a lot of effort in this movie. He worked with dedication and passion. There are occasions where shooting was extended till 4 am. I thank stunt master Thriller Manju who helped me a lot," said Vijay Raghavendra. Producer Bhagya Ramesh said she agreed to bankroll the movie because of its script.

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